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Parade the Circle Workshops Begin May 2

CLEVELAND (April 22, 2003) — The Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) will host public workshops in preparation for the June 14 Parade the Circle Celebration beginning May 2 and continuing up to the Parade Day.

Parade the Circle is a daylong community arts event featuring a parade, family activities by 30 University Circle organizations, food and performing artists. Presented by the Cleveland Museum of Art and University Circle Incorporated (UCI), this **free** event attracts more than 50,000 spectators and 2,000 participants. Parade Workshops feature Parade artists who will assist participants in creating their own ensembles.

Artists from Greater Cleveland, Connecticut, Minnesota, Cuba, Trinidad and Tobago, Vermont and Toronto will inspire participants as they create their Parade entries. "The theme for this year's Parade is *Springs among Stones*," says Robin VanLear, artistic director of the Parade and CMA's community arts program. "Derived from the Gabriel Garcia Márquez short story, *The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World*, Springs among Stones translates into risk taking in response to the natural beauties of the earth. Making one's own creative gesture may call forth unimagined flashes of delicacy and brilliance," VanLear explains.

Basic Workshops

Basic Workshops feature artists who will assist participants in making masks, costumes and giant puppets using paper mache, cloth and recycled materials.

Basic Workshops are open to all ages (children under 15 must register and attend with someone older). Workshop passes are available for $25 per individual or, $75 for families up to four persons ($15 per additional family member) and include Parade entry fee. Group rates and scholarship assistance are available. Pass holders are entitled to attend all Basic Workshops.

Basic Parade Workshops will be held on Fridays, May 2 through June 13, from 6 to 9 p.m.; Saturdays, May 3 through June 7, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.; and Sundays, May 4 through June 8, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

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Special Workshops

Special Workshops are also being offered by the museum for batik and stiltdancing. An introductory stilt weekend will be offered for free. Batik workshops and stilt-dance training require the $25 registration fee.

The Batik Workshop will teach participants the color dyeing technique of batik in order to create their own colorful costumes or banners for the Parade. The Workshop will be conducted on Saturdays, May 10 through June 7, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The fee is $25 with workshop pass. Fabric is available at cost.

Ezra Houser and Canadian artists Brad Harley and Rick Simon will offer an opportunity to try stilting during a weekend of free drop-in sessions on Saturday, May 17 and Sunday May 18 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. The event is open to the public. However, workshop pass holders will be given priority and children must be at least 10 years old. Pass holders without stilts may order them **only** during the stilt weekend for $35. Participants may keep stilts after safety training.

For those who wish to stiltdance during the Parade, Ezra Houser will be conducting Stiltdancing Workshops on Saturdays from May 24 through June 7. Novice classes will be held from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and advanced classes will be held from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Houser will teach participants stilt safety, tying and the art of dancing on stilts. Stiltdancing is free to workshop pass holders.

To register for workshops, stop by the museum during any of the scheduled workshop times. For more information call the museum's community arts office at (216) 707-2483.

No written words, logos, motorized vehicles or live animals (with the exception of wheelchairs and assist dogs) are allowed in the Parade. Those who are creating Parade entries on their own ($4 per person) should also register during scheduled workshop times.

Parade the Circle Celebration is presented by the institutions of University Circle. The Parade is produced by the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Circle Village is coordinated by University Circle Incorporated.

The Parade is sponsored by Sky Bank and the Womens Council of the Cleveland Museum of Art. Additional support for the event comes from the Ohio Arts Council, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, The Cleveland Coca-Cola Bottling Company, the City of Cleveland and Cleveland City Council members, Patricia J. Britt (Ward 6), Sabra Pierce Scott (Ward 8), and Kevin Conwell (Ward 9).

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